

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of customizing a printer control panel for a printing device incorporating a web server linked to a network comprising:
 - 5 initiating a remote request over said network for a web page from said web server by a web browser, said web page associated with at least one software application, said at least one software application configured to provide customizable control panel functionality for controlling operations of said printing device;
 - transmitting said web page over said network;
 - 10 downloading and displaying said web page using said web browser;
 - downloading said at least one software application using said web browser in response to downloading said web page, and
 - customizing a printer control panel using said at least one software application.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a library of selectable printing features by said at least one software application.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said customizing comprises selecting at least one printing feature from said library of selectable printing features.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein each of said printing features of said library of selectable printing is associated with an identifier, and wherein said selecting comprises selecting said at least one printing feature on the basis of said identifier.
- 25 5. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing a workstation configured with said web browser.
6. The method of claim 3, further comprising storing said at least one printing feature.
- 30 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said storing comprises storing said at least one printing feature in a memory component of said printing device or said workstation.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said customizing comprises customizing a previously stored printer control panel, said previously stored printer control panel accessed from said memory component of said printing device or said workstation.
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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising accessing said previously stored printer control panel using at least one of a PIN or a password.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising arranging said at least one printing feature in a user-determined configuration prior to said storing.

11. The method of claim 3, further comprising arranging said at least one printing feature on a graphical user interface displayed within said web browser.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein said web browser comprises a java-enabled web browser.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising executing said at least software application using a Java Virtual Machine platform on said workstation

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said initiating said remote request over said network comprises initiating said remote request over the Internet.

15. A system for customizing a printer control panel, comprising:
20 a printing device incorporating a web server, said web server linked to a network, at least one workstation configured for communicating with said network, said at least one workstation having a web browser thereon; and
at least one software application transmissible by said web server and accessible by said web browser, said at least one software application configured to provide
25 customizable control panel functionality for said printing device through user input on said at least one workstation.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising a Java Virtual Machine and a Java console accessible by said at least one workstation.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein said at least one software application is configured to display a library of selectable printing features within a window displayable on a display of said workstation.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said library of selectable printing features comprises the complete array of control features for the operation of said printing device.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein said at least one software application comprises a plurality of separate multi-threaded Java applets, and wherein each of said separate multi-threaded Java applets is configured to control at least one operative functionality of said printing device.

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20. A method of configuring a customized printer control panel configured for printer functionality for a printing device incorporating a web server linked to a network using a workstation communicating with said network, said workstation having a java-enabled web browser and a Java Virtual Machine platform, said method comprising:

- 10 initiating a request over said network for a web page from said web server using said java-enabled web browser, said request initiated by specifying a network address of said web page to said java-enabled web browser, said web page having at least one applet tag referencing at least one applet responsive to said request;
- transmitting said web page over said network to said java-enabled web browser;
- 15 downloading and displaying said web page using said java-enabled web browser;
- downloading said at least one applet using said java-enabled web browser in response to downloading said web page, said at least one applet programmed to provide customizable control panel functionality for controlling operations of said printing device;
- 20 executing said at least one applet using said Java Virtual Machine platform;
- customizing said printer control panel using said at least one applet operating within said web browser; and
- storing said printer control panel in a memory component of said printing device or said workstation.

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